



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 803 992 A2

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
29.10.1997 Bulletin 1997/44

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: H04B 7/204

(21) Application number: 97106664.2

(22) Date of filing: 22.04.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE ES FR GB IT NL

(30) Priority: 23.04.1996 US 635162

(71) Applicant: AT&T Corp.
New York, NY 10013-2412 (US)

(72) Inventor: Gerakoulis, Diakoumis Parissis
Dover, NJ 07801 (US)

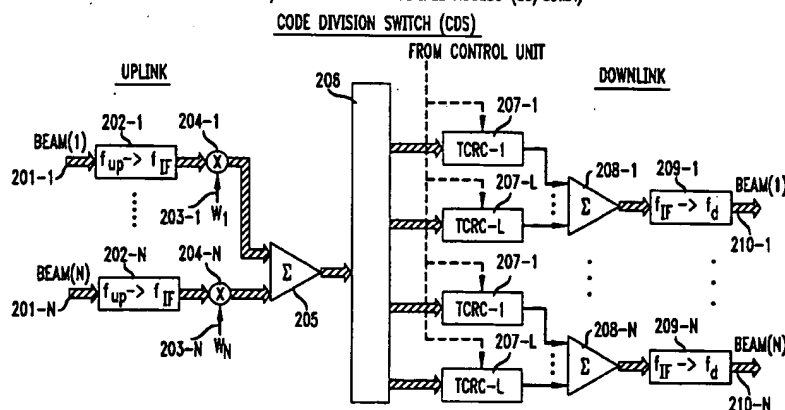
(74) Representative: KUHNEN, WACKER & PARTNER
Alois-Steinacker-Strasse 22
85354 Freising (DE)

(54) Method and apparatus for switching code division multiple access modulated beams

(57) In a code division switch each of a plurality of uplink CDMA modulated RF beams, each including a plurality of uplink traffic channels, are down converted to IF and overspread with a new orthogonal code having a spreading rate N times that of the spreading code of the uplink CDMA modulated RF beam. All of the overspread beams are combined into a single combined IF stream. The individual traffic channels are extracted from the combined IF stream by de-overspreading the stream with orthogonal codes and despread with

beam and traffic channel specific orthogonal codes. All traffic channels are respread with downlink beam codes and downlink orthogonal traffic channel codes and joined onto selected ones of downlink CDMA modulated IF beams having common destinations with the included traffic channels. Downlink CDMA modulated IF beams are up converted to RF frequency and transmitted to selected destinations.

FIG. 2 SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CDMA)



OVERSPREADING IS REQUIRED BEFORE COMBINING ALL UPLINK BEAMS
OVERSPREADING SPREADS THE BANDWIDTH N TIMES; e.g., $B=10\text{MHz}$ $N=8$ $N \times B=80\text{MHz}$
ALL CHIPS BEFORE OVERSPREADING ARE PERFECTLY SYNCHRONIZED
THERE ARE N OVERSPREAD WALSH CHIPS PER CHIP (BEFORE OVERSPREADING)

EP 0 803 992 A2

Description

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to switching apparatus and methods to be used in wired and/or wireless digital telecommunication systems for message switching. It is particularly concerned with the switching of spread spectrum/CDMA modulated beams carrying traffic channels from a specific source to a specific destination.

Background of the Invention

Digital switching of CDMA digital telecommunication signals has previously been limited to circuit and packet switching. Packet type switching is batch transmission signaling and generally requires the use of a buffer memory somewhere in the transmission process. The switching (i.e., CDMA message multiplexing) of end-to-end CDMA complete message signals, without the buffering requirement, has been considered to have complexity sufficient to render it impractical and uneconomical. In some instances a CDMA beam may be redirected, but the individual traffic channels included within each uplink beam are left undisturbed in a corresponding downlink CDMA beam. Uplink CDMA beams are redirected and become a downlink beam, but include the same traffic channels. So traffic channels must have common destinations with the common redirected CDMA beam in which they are included.

In some instances the handling of CDMA packet beams requires the conversion of the CDMA traffic channels to baseband frequencies for switching and redirection processes to occur.

Summary of the Invention

Therefore in accord with the invention a method and apparatus for switching traffic channels between uplink and downlink spread spectrum/CDMA modulated beams is disclosed as claimed in the claims. It particularly concerns CDMA information traffic channel (i.e., message) switching in which a total aggregate information signal is switched at IF frequency without memory buffering required in the process.

In one general illustrative embodiment traffic channels in uplink CDMA beams, received by a switching medium/center, (e.g., a satellite switch) are identified by uplink spreading codes. These uplink CDMA beams are overspread and summed into a single stream from which a plurality of CDMA modulated downlink beams are created with each going to a specific destination. The traffic channels going to that specific are deoverspread and respread to form a CDMA downlink beam. The destination of each traffic channel, identified by unique user code, is joined into that CDMA modulated downlink beam having the same destination. User recovery is performed at an IF frequency. Application of

the invention principles to various forms of spread spectrum is considered to be within the invention scope. In one embodiment multi-CDMA beams are switched in a satellite switching system.

In a particular illustrative embodiment each of a plurality of uplink CDMA modulated RF beams, each including a plurality of uplink traffic channels identified by orthogonal code are down converted to IF CDMA beams identified by PN codes and overspread with a new orthogonal code having a spreading rate N times that of the spreading code of the uplink CDMA modulated RF beam. In the illustrative embodiment "N" represents the number of uplink CDMA beams. All of the overspread uplink beams are combined into a single combined IF stream. The individual traffic channels are extracted from the combined IF stream by deoverspreading the stream with orthogonal codes and despread with beam and traffic channel specific orthogonal codes. All traffic channels are respread with downlink beam codes and downlink orthogonal traffic channel codes and joined onto selected ones of downlink CDMA modulated IF beams having common destinations with the included traffic channels. Downlink CDMA modulated IF beams are up converted to RF frequency and transmitted to selected destinations.

The individual traffic channels are maintained distinct through the operation of overspreading, combined with user identifying orthogonal codes. These operations and apparatus, for switching traffic channels, may be combined in various combinations different from those disclosed herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. All these variations will use the above principles of the invention.

In one embodiment control information is stored in a traffic matrix in memory storage contained in a switch control unit. Routing of traffic channels from uplink CDMA beams onto downlink CDMA beams is determined by the stored traffic matrix and the overhead signals activating the matrix.

An advantage of the invention is that switching (i.e., multiplexing of traffic channels among downlink beams) is performed independent of time as a controlling variable. No buffering (i.e., memory storage) of the traffic channels is required in the switching process.

Brief Description of the Drawing

FIG. 1 is a block schematic of a code switching system architecture;

FIG. 2 is a block schematic of a code division switch;

FIG. 3 is a block schematic of a traffic channel recovery circuit which is a sub-component of the code division switch;

FIG. 4 is a schematic of the traffic matrix included in the control unit;

FIG. 5 is a block schematic of downlink code division multiplexing;

FIG. 6 is a block schematic of a code division switch

with intermodule routing;

FIG. 7 is block schematic of a downlink code division multiplexer; and

FIG. 8 is a system schematic showing one application of the code division switch.

Detailed Description

A code switching architecture, such as shown in FIG. 1, includes a control unit 101 having memory storage for a traffic matrix relating uplink sources to intended downlink destinations. Uplink access channels 103, which may comprise a plurality of uplink data and access CDMA beams 1 through N, are directed to an Access Channel Reception unit 105 for processing and for whose output is directed to the control unit 101. The output of the control unit 101 is applied to a Satellite Broadcast Transmitter Unit 107 where it supplies the downlink broadcast data and access channels over the CDMA beams 109. A second output of the control unit is applied, via lead 111, to a code division switch 125.

Code division switch 125 accepts a plurality of bearer CDMA modulated RF beams 131, downconverts the beams to IF and applies identifying and overspreading codes to the individual traffic channels contained within each beam. The beams are all summed into one combined stream and the individual traffic channels are recovered and identified as to their destination in response to the control signal, applied via lead 111. The destination traffic channels are inserted into downlink CDMA beams 133 for transmission to specific downlink destinations.

While a satellite application, using an air interface is shown as an illustrative embodiment, the invention is not limited to satellite communication systems. The invention is equally applicable to terrestrial communication systems and to systems using wired and optical connections.

A code division switch, such as shown in FIG. 2 separates uplink traffic channels from uplink CDMA beams and inserts them in to downlink CDMA beams having the desired destination. Incoming uplink CDMA modulated RF beams 201-1 to 201-N, each of which include traffic channels, are each applied to downconversion frequency converters 202-1 to 202-N, respectively, to convert the beams into CDMA modulated IF beams. Each CDMA modulated beam is over-spread by the application of the Walsh function chips W_1 to W_N , as inputs 203-1 to 203-N, applied to the mixing circuits 204-1 to 204-N, respectively. The Walsh functions uniquely identify the traffic channels within the beams. Overspreading by a multiple of N does not contribute any interference to the various distinct traffic channels. All of the over-spread CDMA beams are summed into one inclusive signal stream by the summing circuitry 205. Summing of these IF beam signals combined with the overspreading avoids any inter-traffic-channel interference that that would be inserted into the individual traffic channels and hence assure their subsequent

intact recovery. In one illustrative embodiment of the invention this recovery is further enhanced by the use of orthogonal user spread coding.

This summed signal stream is applied to a distribution bus 206 which in turn applies the stream to a plurality of traffic channel recovery circuits 207-1 to 207-L. The output of each traffic channel recovery circuit is applied to a second summing circuit 208-1 to 208-N from which a downlink CDMA modulated if beam is derived with each downlink beam having a particular destination. The control unit described above applies control signals to each traffic channel recovery circuit 207-1 to 207-N to recover the traffic channels destined for a particular destination from the beam formed from the output of that traffic channel recovery circuit.

The beams are formed in the summing circuits 208-1 to 208-N and each beam is upconverted to RF by the upconversion frequency converters 209-1 to 209-N resulting in the downlink CDMA modulated RF beams 210-1 to 210-N.

In the illustrative traffic channel recovery circuit of FIG. 3 individual traffic channels are recovered from the summed beam and segregated into downlink beams having a destination in common with the destination of the traffic channel. Recovery of the traffic channels is accomplished by the despreading of the applied summed signal stream with beam and user codes and filtering the desired IF frequency.

The individual traffic channels are recovered from the summed beam in the traffic channel recovery circuits which supply a downlink with traffic channels having a common destination/ A particular embodiment of the Traffic channel recovery circuit, shown in FIG. 3, receives the summed signal at input 301 and applies it to a mixer 302 which deoverspreads the summed signal stream with a first user code supplied by a N-Walsh function generator 311 fed through a base band filter 312. The various traffic channels are recovered by the integrator 303 and are applied to the mixer 304 for despreading with codes supplied by a beam PN code generated by the PN code generator 314 and filtered by the base band filter 313. The signal is further despread by a code supplied by the L-Walsh function generator 316 and filtered by baseband filter 315, which code is applied to mixer 305 for despreading. This despread signal is integrated by integrator 307 and applied to mixer 308. It is spread by a PN code supplied by PN code generator 318 and filtered by baseband filter 317. This signal is further spread in mixer 309 by a L-Walsh code supplied by a Walsh function generator 320 and filtered by the baseband filter 319. The beam output containing the baseband IF downlink beam is supplied on output lead 310.

An illustrative matrix (for three beams) which may be used in the control unit for directing uplink traffic channels to downlink beams is shown in the FIG. 4 and may be contained in the control unit as part of a stored program. As shown the columns are identified with the downlink CDMA beams and the rows are identified with

the uplink CDMA beams. Each uplink and downlink CDMA contains a plurality of user traffic channels $U_n + U_m + \dots + U_p$ and $U_a + U_b + \dots + U_c$, respectively. The matrix entries indicate the codes to be used for the uplink and downlink traffic channels. This assures that the downlink traffic channels are included in the desired downlink beam.

A scheme for multiplexing downlink beams is schematically shown in the FIG. 5. A code division switch (module A of a plurality of modules) 501 receives the CDMA beams 502-1 through 502-N. The output beams of module A and the other modules (not shown) are applied to a plurality of summers 503-1 through 503-N. The output of the summers 503-1 through 503-N are controlled by the control unit input 504-1 through 504-N which selects the traffic channels to be applied to the up conversion circuits 505-1 through 505-N, which includes the traffic channels in the appropriate downlink RF beams.

A specific system for intermodule routing is shown in the FIG. 6 in which the bus is supplied by the input circuitry shown in the FIG. 2. The output scheme includes an identical plurality of traffic channel recovery units "one" through "L" all connected to different summing circuits 601-1 through 601-N for forming downlink beams each directed to a different downlink module for further transmission.

The arrangement for forming a beam with the traffic channels all having a destination in common with a particular beam "j" is shown in the FIG. 7. The traffic channels selected by traffic channel recovery circuits 701-1 through 701-N are applied to a summer 702 in common with the pilot, sync and paging channels 703. The summer output is applied to an upconversion frequency converter 705 to generate the desired downlink CDMA modulated RF beam.

A typical illustrative application of the code division switch is illustrated in the FIG. 8, in which multiple source points 801-1 to 801-N are connected by a CDMA switching satellite 802 to any one of the multiple destination points 803-1 to 803-N. This multi-point to multi-point switched connection has not been priorly achieved in the transmission of message CDMA signals/beams. the air interfaces further allow unlimited bandwidth in the uplink and downlink signals.

Claims

1. A method for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, each traffic channel being uniquely identified by an orthogonal code and a beam code;

CHARACTERIZED BY:

downconverting the uplink CDMA modulated RF beams into uplink CDMA modulated IF beams;
overspreading each CDMA modulated IF beam

with a new orthogonal code having a rate N times higher than a spreading rate of the uplink CDMA modulated RF beams;

summing all of the uplink CDMA modulated IF beams into a single combined IF stream;

extracting the individual traffic channels, according to their destinations, from the single combined IF stream; by:

de-overspreading the single combined IF stream with an orthogonal code, despreading with the beam code, and despreading with the orthogonal code to recover the individual traffic channels, and filtering at the IF frequency;

respreading with a downlink beam code and with a downlink orthogonal traffic channel code;

combining all CDMA IF traffic channels into a plurality of downlink CDMA modulated IF beams with a commonality of destination between the CDMA modulated beams and the traffic channels they include;

upconverting each one of the plurality of downlink beams into a downlink CDMA modulated RF beam carrying selected traffic channels to their intended destination in common with a destination of the downlink CDMA modulated RF beam.

2. A method for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 1:

further including the step of:

generating codes for the purpose of extracting the individual traffic channels according to destination in response to a destination control signal.

3. A method for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 1:

the step of over spreading includes:

using Walsh codes with N chips times spreading PN codes to overspread the CDMA modulated IF beam.

4. A method for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 1:

further including the step of:

storing destination control signals in a matrix array used for generating the destination control signals in response to matrix entries T_{ij} of sums of uplink i and downlink j CDMA modu-

lated beams.

5. A CDMA switch for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, where each traffic channel is uniquely identified by an orthogonal code and a beam code;

CHARACTERIZED BY:

first frequency conversion means for receiving uplink CDMA modulated RF beams and down-
converting the uplink CDMA modulated RF
beams into uplink CDMA modulated IF beams;
overspreading means connected to an output
of the first frequency conversion means and
overspread each CDMA modulated IF beam
and receive as spreading input a new orthogo-
nal code having a rate N times higher than a
spreading rate of the uplink CDMA modulated
RF beams;
summing means connected to receive all over-
spread CDMA modulated IF beams and sum
all of the overspread uplink CDMA modulated
IF beams into a single combined IF stream;
traffic channel recovery means for receiving the
single combined IF stream and extracting the
individual traffic channels, according to their
destinations, from the single combined IF
stream; including:
de-overspreading means connected to receive
the single combined IF stream and de-over-
spread the single combined IF stream with an
orthogonal code,
despreading means connected for despread-
ing an output of the deoverspreading means
with a beam code, and further despread it with
an orthogonal code to recover the individual
traffic channels, and a filter to filter it at the IF
frequency;
respreading means connected for respreading
an output of the filter with a downlink beam
code and with a downlink orthogonal traffic
channel code;
signal combining means connected for combin-
ing all CDMA IF traffic channels into a plurality
of downlink CDMA modulated IF beams with a
commonality of destination between the CDMA
modulated beams and the traffic channels they
include;
second frequency conversion means con-
nected for upconverting each one of the plural-
ity of downlink beams into a downlink CDMA
modulated RF beam carrying selected traffic
channels to their intended destination in com-
mon with a destination of the downlink CDMA
modulated RF beam.

6. A code division switch for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA

modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 5:

further including:

a code generator connected to the traffic chan-
nel recovery means and generating codes for
the purpose of extracting the individual traffic
channels according to destination in response
to a destination control signal.

7. A code division switch for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 5:

further including:

a Walsh function generator for generating and
connected for applying an N chip Walsh func-
tion to overspread the uplink CDMA modulated
IF beam

8. A code division switch for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink CDMA modulated RF beams of a common RF channel, as claimed in claim 5:

further including:

a memory for storing destination control sig-
nals in a matrix array used for generating the
destination control signals in response to col-
umn and row sums of uplink and downlink
CDMA modulated beams.

9. A method for switching traffic channels between a plurality of uplink and downlink spread spectrum modulated beams;

CHARACTERIZED BY the steps of:

associating with each uplink spread spectrum
modulated beam a plurality of traffic channels
each individually identified by application of an
uplink spreading code;
summing all uplink spread spectrum modu-
lated beams into a common stream;
extracting traffic channels from the common
stream traffic channels according to destination
by using a downlink spreading process; and
spreading the common stream into individual
spread spectrum modulated beams including
traffic channels having a destination in com-
mon with its including downlink spread spec-
trum modulated beam.

10. A spread spectrum/CDMA communication system;
CHARACTERIZED BY:

a first plurality of uplink CDMA beam sources
containing message type traffic signals each
uniquely defined by an individual code space

locus;

expanding all uplink CDMA beams by overspreading and combining into one CDMA stream;

a plurality of receivers of downlink CDMA beams derived from the CDMA stream containing message type traffic signals each uniquely identified by one of the individual code space locus;

10

11. A method of switching a channel from an incoming spread spectrum beam to an outgoing spread spectrum beam:

CHARACTERIZED BY the steps of:

15

coding each channel in the incoming spread spectrum beam in a manner to enhance channel separation and reduce interference between individual channels contained within the beams;

20

recovering individual traffic channels and combining pluralities of channel beams into outgoing spread spectrum beams each having a destination in common with the channels it contains.

25

12. A method of switching a channel from an incoming spread spectrum beam to an outgoing spread spectrum beam: as claimed in claim 11;

comprising the steps of:

30

the coding of each channel in the incoming beam including the step of overspreading each incoming beam.

35

40

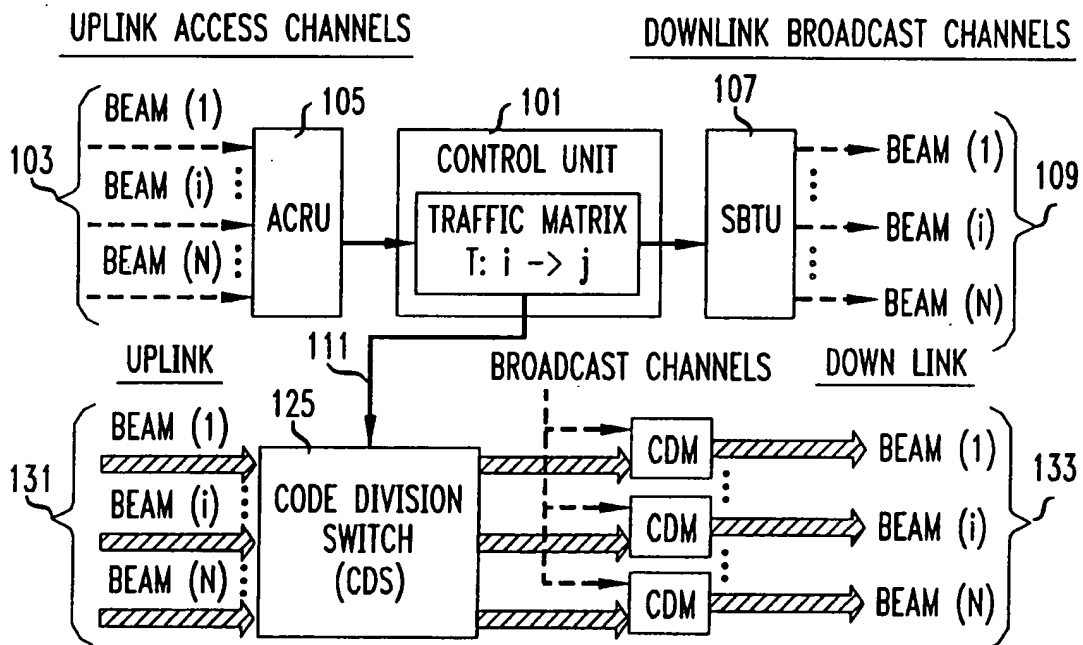
45

50

55

FIG. 1

SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS(SS/CDMA)

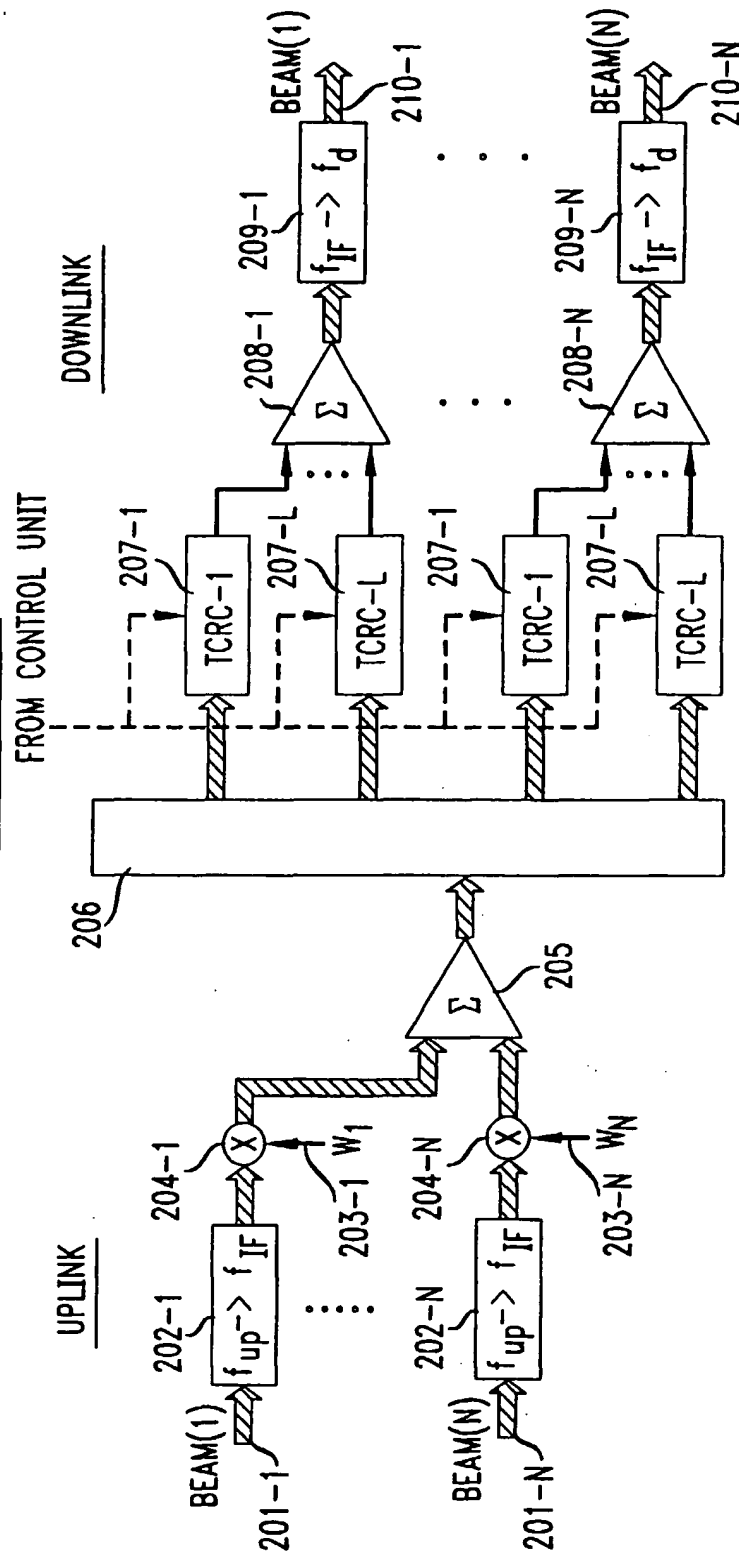
CODE SWITCHING SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

ACRU: ACCESS CHANNEL RECEPTION UNIT

SBTU: SATELLITE BROADCAST TRANSMITTER UNIT

CDM: CODE DIVISION MULTIPLEXER

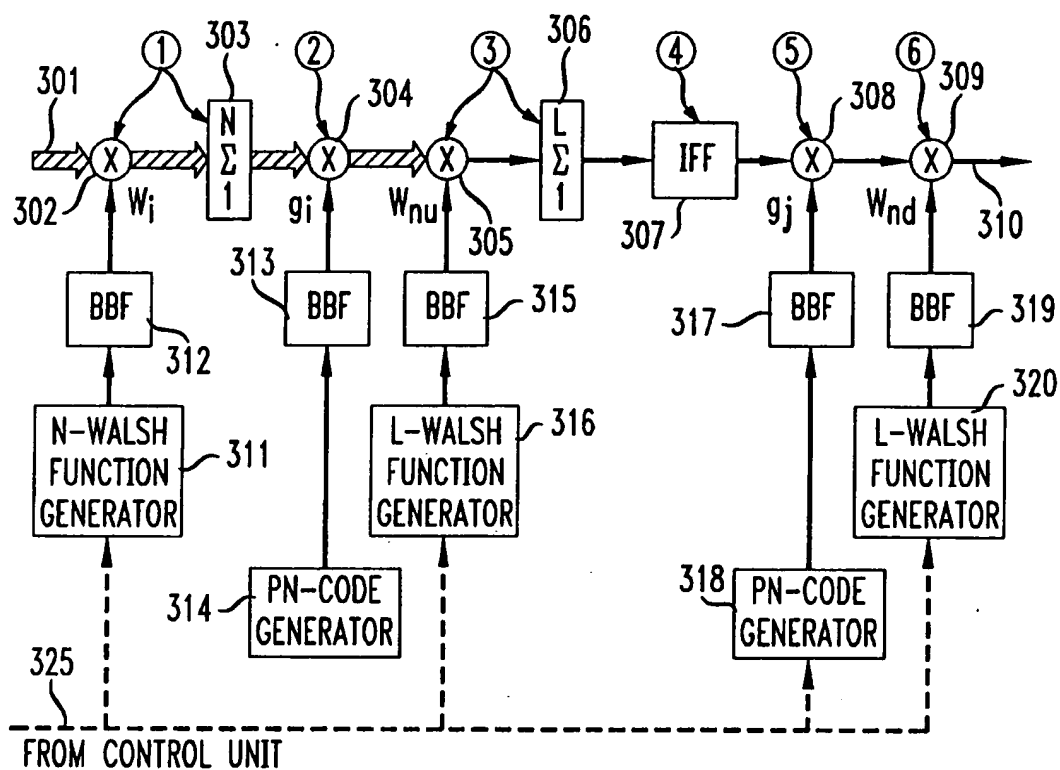
FIG. 2 SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CDMA)
CODE DIVISION SWITCH (CDS)



OVERSPREADING IS REQUIRED BEFORE COMBINING ALL UPLINK BEAMS
OVERSPREADING SPREADS THE BANDWIDTH N TIMES; e.g., $B=10\text{MHz}$ $N=8$ $N \times B=80\text{MHz}$
ALL CHIPS BEFORE OVERSPREADING ARE PERFECTLY SYNCHRONIZED
THERE ARE N OVERSPREAD WALSH CHIPS PER CHIP (BEFORE OVERSPREADING)

FIG. 3

SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CMDA)
 TRAFFIC CHANNEL RECOVERY CIRCUIT (TCRC)



1. DEOVERSPREADING; BANDWIDTH $NB \rightarrow B$, WHERE B IS THE BEAM'S BANDWIDTH.
 2. DESPREADING WITH THE g_i PN SEQUENCES IDENTIFYING UPLINK BEAM i .
 3. DESPREADING WITH THE WALSH CODE IDENTIFYING THE USER- n IN THE UPLINK(W_{nu})
 4. IFF: INTERMEDIATE FREQUENCY FILTER
 5. SPREADING WITH THE DOWNLINKBEAM PN-CODE g_j
 6. SPREADING WITH THE DOWNLINK USER WALSH CODE W_{nd}
- CODES g_i, g_j, W_{nu} , AND W_{nd} HAVE THE SAME CHIP RATE AS THE BEAM BANDWIDTH REQUIRES
 - WALSH CODES HAVE RATE N TIMES THE RATE OF g_i

FIG. 4
 SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CMDA)
 THE TRAFFIC MATRIX, T

$$T = [t_{ij}]$$

$$t = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, \dots\} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$u_k = (g_i, g_j, w_{nu}, w_{nd})$$

t_{ij} : REPRESENTS THE SET OF REQUESTS ($k = 1, 2, \dots$) FROM UPLINK BEAM i TO DOWNLINK BEAM j .

g_i and g_j : REPRESENTS THE PN-CODES IDENTIFYING THE UPLINK AND DOWNLINK BEAMS, RESPECTIVELY.

w_{nu} and w_{nd} : REPRESENT THE WALSH CODES IDENTIFYING THE TRAFFIC CHANNEL OR THE USER WITHIN THE WB-CDMA CHANNEL FOR THE UPLINK AND DOWNLINK, RESPECTIVELY

EXAMPLE:

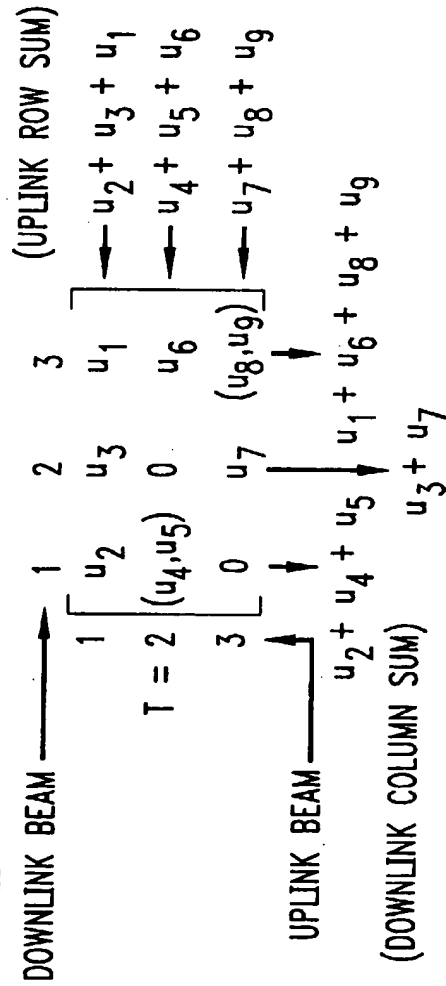


FIG. 5

SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CDMA)

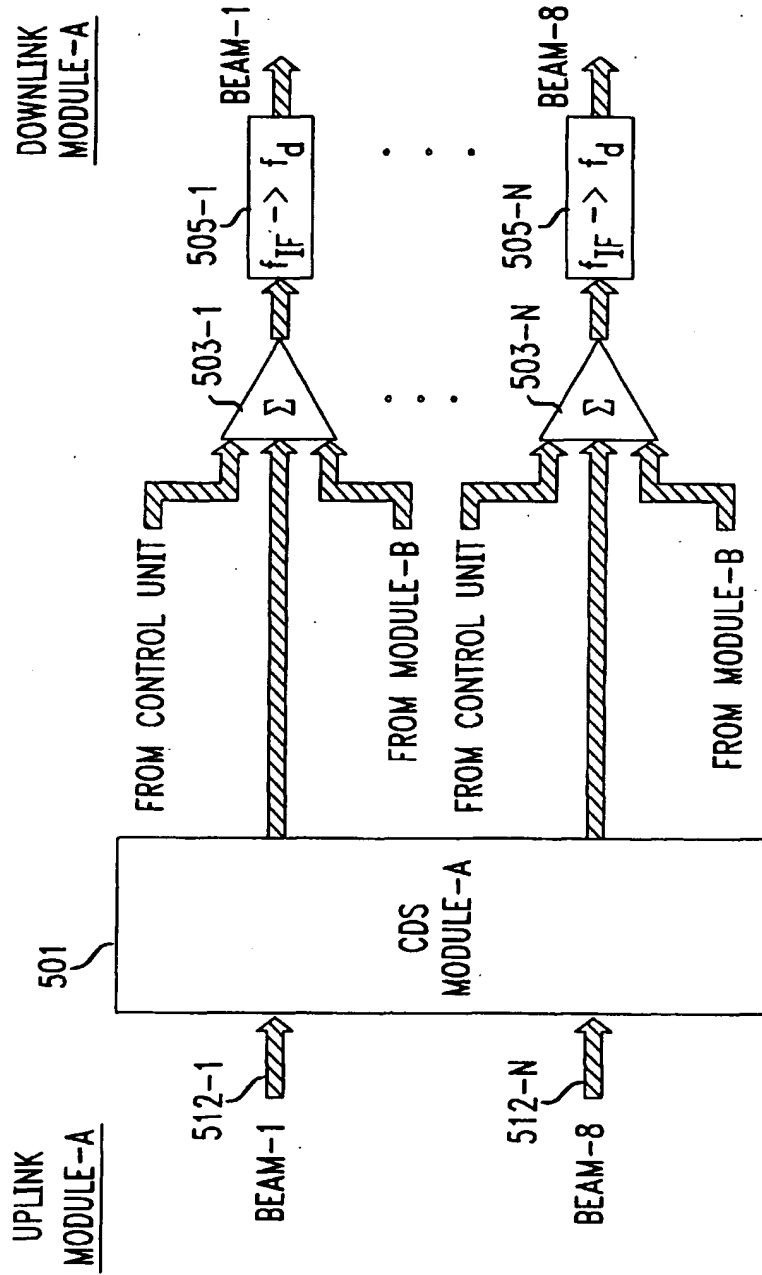
DOWNLINK CODE DIVISION MULTIPLEXING

FIG. 6 SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CDMA) CODE DIVISION SWITCH (CDS) WITH INTERMODULE ROUTING

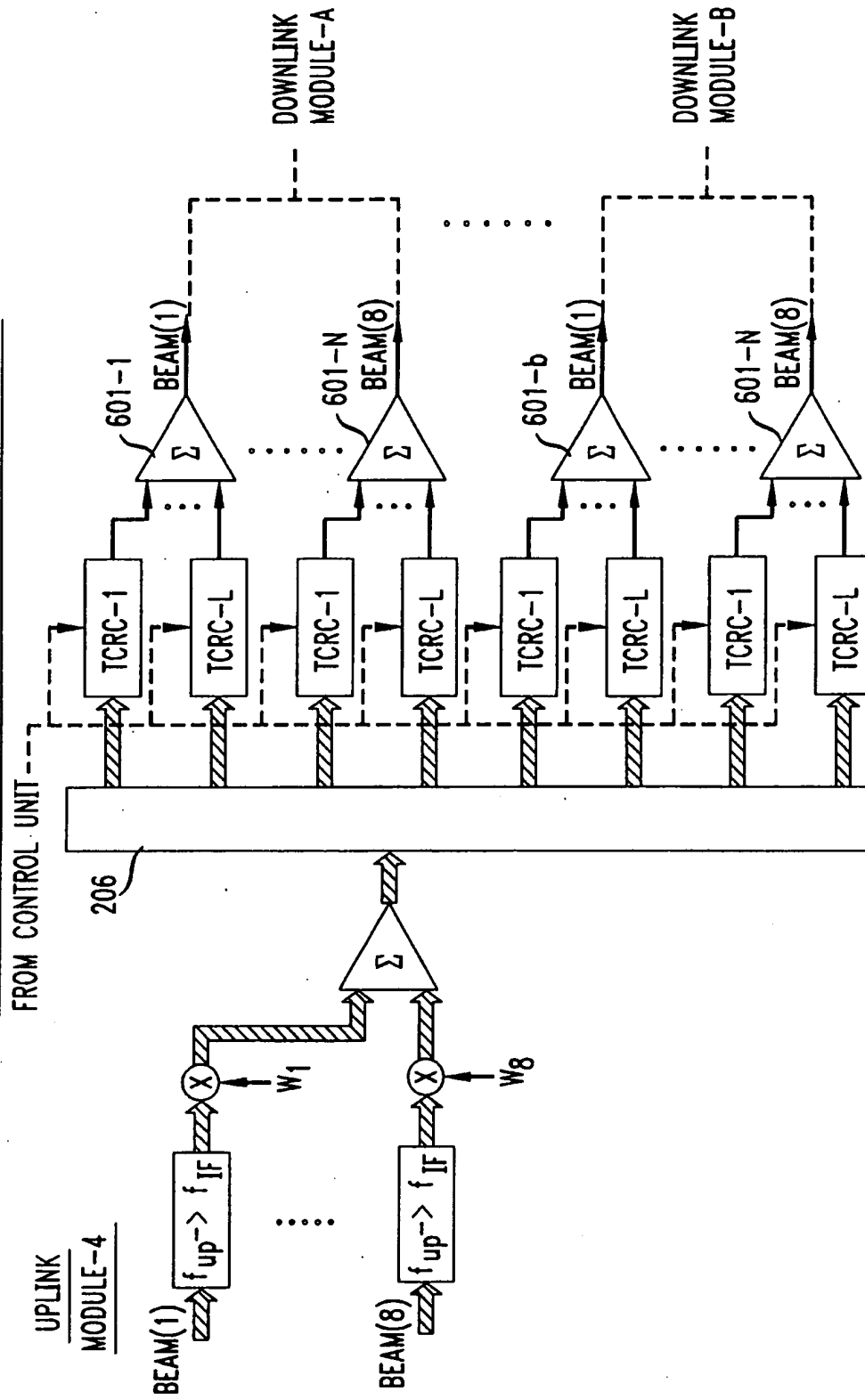


FIG. 7

SATELLITE SWITCHED/CODE DIVISION MULTIPLE ACCESS (SS/CDMA)
DOWNLINK CODE DIVISION MULTIPLEXER (CDM)

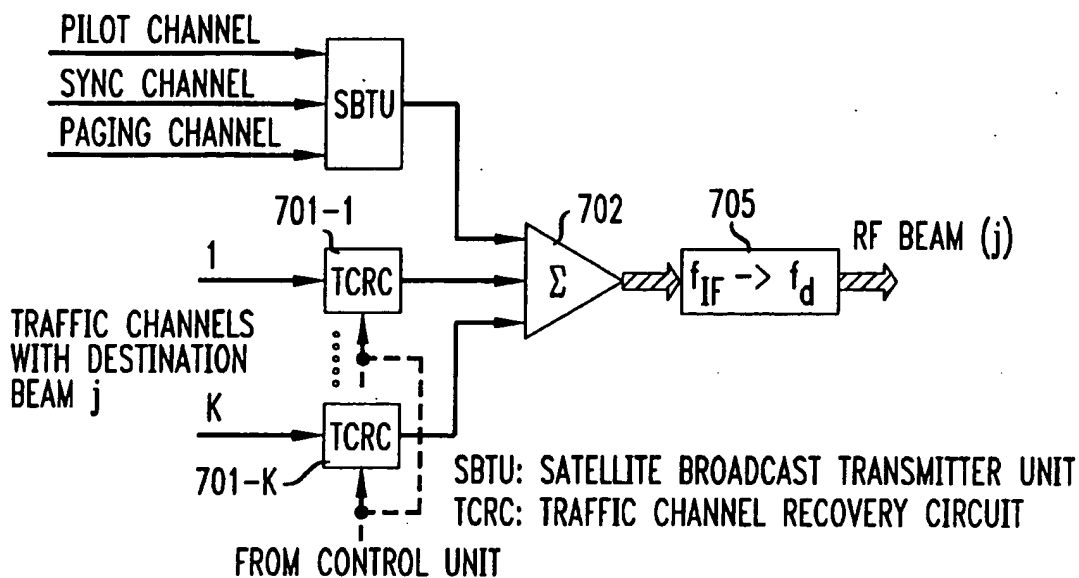


FIG. 8

